



Partner Notes

From the Office of Community Partnerships in
the District of Columbia Public Schools



News on partnerships, volunteerism, donations and events in DC Public Schools

April 2009

Eggs, Money and Dresses!

The month of April has meant many things to students in DC Public Schools.....eggs, money and dresses. Sounds odd, but when you read this edition of the Partner Notes, you'll learn of a trip to the White House Easter Egg Roll, volunteer efforts for financial literacy month, and a donation of over 100 prom dresses for our students.

I hope you enjoy reading all about these great moments in April.

Shereen Williams
Director, DCPS Office of Community Partnerships

Partner Spotlight

Double the Numbers

[Double the Numbers \(DTN\)](#), is a citywide coalition of key government agencies, education and community organizations that are working together to create a college going culture in the District, and to increase the number of public and public charter school students who graduate from high school and college in a timely fashion.



DTN is building a college going culture in the District by:

Supporting Students

- **College Access Providers (CAPs)** from over 70 organizations partner with DTN to prepare students for the college experience. CAPs provide information on how to select, apply, pay for and succeed in college; conduct college tours; and provide tutoring, mentoring and internships.
- **College Awareness Month** allows students to participate in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) College Fair with over 300 colleges and universities. Students participate in school based assemblies and special events designed to make them college ready.
- **Scholarships** – Deserving students are eligible for a \$25K scholarship to pay for college over 5 years. The DC College Success Foundation awards these scholarships.

Supporting Schools

- DTN created Collaboratives to allow all external partners in a school to function as a team and coordinate their work to support the school's priorities.
- College Awareness Month Resource and Activity Guide has strategies and activities schools can use to create a college going culture.

By Supporting Professionals

DTN holds monthly College Access Providers' Roundtable meetings open to anyone preparing students to succeed in college.

[Double the Numbers](#) is housed at the DC College Success Foundation (DCCSF) and led by the Foundation's Executive Director Herb Tillery.

Events



White House Easter Egg Roll

The White House gave DCPS 2,000 tickets the annual White House Easter Egg Roll. Mayor Adrian Fenty, Chancellor Michelle Rhee and Education Secretary Arne Duncan distributed tickets to all of the students at Plummer ES on April 6th. 19 other DCPS schools were selected based on students' academic growth this year. In addition, student athletes from Woodson, SHS, Wilson SHS, and School Without Walls SHS helped manage the soccer and basketball stations.



National Poetry Month at MLK Memorial Public Library

In honor of National Poetry Month, the DC SCORES teams from Thomson ES, Bancroft ES, and Reed LC performed their original poetry on April 1st at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library. The poetry, which the students wrote during the fall 2008 DC SCORES season, ranged in topic from personal identity, to diversity, to the fate of warriors in battle. The library displayed the students' poetry outside the Children's Library throughout the month of April.



CookieTime Project

Students from Sousa MS, Hardy MS, Spingarn SHS and School Without Walls traveled to New Orleans to implement the CookieTime Project -- a partnership between Kid Power, a DC youth-serving organization, and Warren Brown's CakeLove Bakery. CookieTime teaches students how to bake cookies, market their products, and use the profits for service projects. Together the students and volunteers will develop a creative response to Hurricane Katrina-related issues.

Partner Meetings at Turner @ Green ES

The Turner @ Green Partner Committee aims to create a culture of collaboration and communication among programs, partners, and educators, and to provide a forum to discuss students' needs. The committee has hosted bi-monthly meetings between staff and partners sharing upcoming events and discussing programming successes and concerns. We hope that their success can stand as a model for school-partner committees at DCPS.

Parent Conference Day Challenge

The Ward 8 Family and Resource Center hosted a competition for schools in order to increase parent attendance during the last Parent Conference Day. The competition was a huge success. Over 1,500 parents participated from schools in Ward 8. Congratulations to Martin Luther King Elementary School which had an overall parent attendance of 89%!

Past events:

- April 1st- Cable Cares Service Day at Truesdell ES
- April 3rd- Character Project Exhibit at Pepco's Edison Place Gallery
- April 6th to 8th - Young Playwright's Theater "New Play Festival" at the Gala Hispanic Theater. Performances of plays written by DC Public Schools' students.
- April 9th- American Violet movie screening at Wilson SHS
- April 3rd - Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship Surprise Announcement at Ellington School of the Arts
- April 5th - The Big Chili fundraiser for Stoddert ES at the French Embassy
- April 17th- "Zomo the Rabbit" at the Atlas Theatre



April 13th- HD Woodson SHS girls' basketball team volunteers at Easter Egg Roll at the White House

- April 14th- Young Playwright's Theater performance at DCPS central office
- April 17th- NFL Training 4 Life event at Woodson SHS
- April 24th-26th- Global Youth Service Day
- April 25th- Hands on DC Work-a-thon
- April 29th- American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association free children's concert at Lisner Auditorium
- May 2nd - Greater DC Cares Servathon
- May 5th- Prom Dress Giveaway
- May 12th- DC Public School Leader For a Day Event

Upcoming Events:

- **10th Annual District of Columbia Public Schools Citywide Student Art Exhibition April 4- May 31, 2009**
- **DC Public Schools is pleased to announce the 10th Annual District of Columbia Public Schools Citywide Student Art Exhibition: "Yes WE Can –Creatively Communicate!" The exhibition will be on display from April 4 – May 31, 2009 at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.**

Donations

Cable Cares Service Day- The organization collaborates with DCPS on April 1st at the Truesdell Educational Campus. The group focuses on painting murals, building benches, and other beautification projects.



NCTA, Gospel Music Channel and Feed The Channel – These partners brought Robert Randolph and the Family Band to Hart MS and provided 400 boxes of food for families in the community.

Heart of America Foundation- This month, 50 Cherry Blossom Princesses from across the United States visited Cleveland ES to distribute books and read to a very excited group of students.

Neediest Kids- Congratulations to Clayton Armstrong from Ballou SHS and Kiarra Marie Johnson from Banneker SHS! They were selected as recipients of the Thomas B. Cookerly Scholarship.

George Washington University- On April 3rd, nine DCPS graduating seniors were awarded the Trachtenberg Award, which is a full scholarship to GWU.

MetLife Foundation- 25 public school teachers from across the nation were recognized for their leadership in building bridges between their school and the community. Congratulations to Joseph Chisholm from Hardy Middle School for being one of this year's recipients! He will receive a \$5,000 grant for his school.

DC College Access Program 10th Anniversary Gala Celebration

Eight DCPS students participated in the DC-CAPital Stars Talent Competition held at the Kennedy Center on April 6th. The citywide talent competition garnered auditions in the vocal, instrumental and dance category. The following DCPS students participated as finalists and performed in front of a panel of celebrity judges.

- **Trevor Duffles- Wilson SHS**
- **Nicolas Hakim- Wilson SHS**
- **Paulina Harper- Coolidge SHS**
- **Danielle Hill- Ellington School of the Arts**
- **Jamilla Lee- Ellington School of the Arts**
- **Dakota Ross-Cabrera- School w/o Walls SHS**
- **Reginald Tarver- McKinley Technology SHS**
- **Clifton Williams- Ellington School of the Arts**

Congratulations to Danielle Hill for receiving the grand prize and Jamilla Lee for receiving second place in the competition!

Thank you very much...

1. National Geographic Television – \$500 worth Foreign Language Edition Magazines
2. SAS Global Users Group- \$5000 worth of books to 5 schools
3. National Cable and Telecommunications Association-\$44,000 worth of music instruments, sports equipment, books, and supplies for Hart, Truesdell, Simon, and Leckie.
4. Planet Hope- \$6000 worth of prom dresses
5. Books for America- 5,500 books for Roosevelt SHS

6. Black United Fund- Cash gifts to schools who won the 17th Annual Back to School Campaign. \$2000 for Garrison ES, Tubman ES and Roosevelt SHS. \$1500 for Peabody ES, Anne Beers ES and Columbia Heights Educational Campus. \$1000 for Ross ES, Terrell/ McGogney ES, and Amidon-Bowen ES.

Many individuals and organizations make cash and in-kind donations to our schools throughout the year. If you would like to make a donation, contact our office by emailing dcpspartnerships@dc.gov. We greatly appreciate all types of support. However, used items, especially technology-related items, will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

Wish List



Prom Dress Giveaway

Planet Hope donated over 100 new and gently used prom dresses to DCPS. On May 5th, we hosted an event where these dresses were distributed to some of the girls in the class of 2009. Thank you, Planet Hope!!!

Volunteer Network

[Visit Us Online!](#) Volunteers and school staff can sign up on our website. Volunteers can sign in to receive bi-weekly emails of volunteer opportunities at DCPS. School staff can post their volunteer needs.

Sign up to learn about volunteer opportunities in DCPS!

Look Who's Volunteering

Financial Literacy Month

On March 31, 2009, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI) introduced a resolution designating April 2009 as "Financial Literacy Month. To celebrate Financial Literacy Month partners from the Greater Washington Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy including, Bank of America, Fannie Mae, Merrill Lynch, American Financial Services Association, The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Citibank, The American Bankers Association, Sun Trust, The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship and Junior Achievement taught DCPS high school students about budgeting, credit card finance and identity

theft. Participating schools included Ballou, Banneker, Bell, Coolidge, Dunbar, Eastern, McKinley, Moore, Roosevelt, School Without Walls, Spingarn, Wilson, and Woodson.

American Bankers Association

The American Bankers Association Education Foundation and Operation Hope brought 70 area bankers and financial industry volunteers to Wilson to kick off Financial Literacy Month and the 2009 Teach Children to Save program. Volunteers instructed over 1,000 students on the basics of banking, checking and saving accounts, credit and basic investments.

Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area (JA)

In conjunction with several volunteers from the business community JA taught a program called Junior Achievement \$ave USA at Ballou SHS, Roosevelt SHS and Dunbar SHS. The 60-minute lesson teaches high school students about personal finance while actively engaging them in examining credit choices, budgeting and the importance of saving. Using hands-on activities, students decide if they will purchase items using credit and plan how they will pay for them.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

Several members of the FDIC's Division of Supervision and Consumer Protection delivered workshops at H.D. Woodson Senior High and Luke C Moore Academy. The sessions covered an introduction to deposit accounts, and provide an overview of credit including credit cards, and budgeting.

The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE)

Along with local bankers, NFTE delivered workshops at McKinley Technology High School to teach about the importance of making good financial decisions. Some of the subjects covered included budgeting, credit cards and identity theft.

Bright Futures

A speaker series featuring accomplished African-American women sharing their experiences and lessons learned along the way with young women at the Youth Engagement Academy. Future speakers will include an executive in finance, and Michel Martin, the award-winning journalist and host of "Tell Me More" of NPR.

Northwestern University

10 students from Northwestern University spent their spring break at MC Terrell with City Year. They helped out with the K-6 classes and provided activities such as arts and crafts, tutoring, and managing recess.



Sports4kids

Coaches from Sports4Kids volunteered at the White House Easter Egg Roll. They managed basketball and soccer stations for the thousands of young children who attended the event.

DCPS Student Athletes

Student athletes from School Without Walls SHS, Wilson SHS, and Woodson SHS volunteered at the White House Easter Egg Roll to help teach younger students how to play soccer and basketball.

Writing Coaches



Columbia Heights Education Campus has 87 volunteers helping students complete their senior theses.

City Year

On April 18th City Year held a service day at Anne Beers ES. 120 volunteers painted murals, worked on the courtyard garden and fulfilled the school's wish list with much needed supplies.

Please feel free to contact the Volunteer Program at 202-442-5447 or email dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov.

Send Us Your Story

Do you have a story that should be in our newsletter? Please share your donations, wish list, events and volunteer updates for publication in future issues.

To reply to this e-newsletter, send an email to dcpspartnerships@dc.gov. Update your subscriptions, modify your e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com. All other inquiries can be directed to dcdocs@dc.gov.

Please share this e-newsletter with colleagues and friends! If you know others who would benefit from receiving this e-newsletter, please send their email addresses to dcpspartnerships@dc.gov.

This e-newsletter is provided to you by:
District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Community Partnerships
825 North Capitol Street NE, 9th floor
Washington, DC 20002
202-442-5885
dcpspartnerships@dc.gov
Shereen Williams, Director
Luisa Paningbatan, Project Assistant